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PUBLICATION ORDERS

To order a subscription or single issue of GAME FACE, please call 216.420.GIFT or toll free at 800.38.TRIBE.

Credits

Our thanks to everyone who assisted the Advertising and Publications staff of the Cleveland Indians in the development of this publication.

PUBLICATION DESIGN & LAYOUT

Zorc Photo & Design

with contributions from Herip & Associates and ZZ Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

Game action by Gregory Drezdson (unless otherwise noted)

Cover and Spring Training photos by Scott Audette, NS Images

PRINTING

St Ives
Cleveland

On the cover . . . Foreground: Indians Manager Charlie Manuel. Background, left to right: Kenny Lofton, Jim Thome, Richie Sexson, Omar Vizquel, and Sandy Alomar, Jr.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

SPECIAL FEATURES ...

10 CLEVELAND'S TOP TEN PROSPECTS by Baseball America

Who are the Tribe's best prospects for future seasons? C.C. Sabathia, Danys Baez, and Russell Branyan — just to name a few. Here's *Baseball America's* pick of the Top 10 young talents in the Cleveland organization.

36 WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET by Jim Ingraham

With baseball experience as a bench player, star, Minor League manager, and Major League coach, Charlie Manuel is well prepared for his new role as Indians skipper. Yet it is his honesty and "straight shooter" style which is most often mentioned and praised when his players and contemporaries speak of him.

46 GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW CHIEF by Bill Needle

The new owner of the Cleveland Indians, Larry Dolan, is a family man with Cleveland roots. Excited at the prospect of running this team with his children, Dolan says he has a number of goals including contributing to the well-being of the city of Cleveland. He also plans to maintain a perennial winning standard, rather than undertake a short-term buildup.

60 VOICES OF EXPERIENCE by Yank Poleyeff

When Charlie Manuel set about choosing his coaching staff, he chose a path different from many other managers. Rather than recruit friends and longtime teammates, he made experience and the ability to teach and communicate his top priorities. The result is a top-notch group that proved its mettle unexpectedly when Manuel faced surgery this Spring.

68 MY FAVORITE BALLPARK National Baseball Hall of Fame

Cleveland fans know that Jacobs Field is a jewel, but what were some of the great parks of the past? Hall of Famers reminisce about their favorite ballparks and the places where they made their Major League debuts.



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3

RUSSELL BRANYAN

Position: Third base
Age: 24 **B/T:** L/R
Ht. 6'3" **Wt.** 195
Drafted: HS - Warner
 Robins, GA,
 1994
 (7th round)
Signed by: Mark Germann

Background: Branyan has hit 149 home runs in 1,922 Minor League at-bats, with 766 strikeouts. He got a brief taste of the big leagues in 1999, hitting a home run off David Cone at Yankee Stadium in his first at-bat, but he quickly went back to Buffalo.

Strengths: Branyan has staggering, jaw-dropping, raw power. He has surprising athleticism, and has worked hard and made huge strides to turn himself into a solid defensive third baseman.

Weaknesses: He also has shown almost no ability to make adjustments and swings just as wildly when behind in the count as when ahead. He struck out 118 times more than anyone else on the Buffalo team last year.

The Future: Branyan will start the season at Buffalo. This is a huge year for Branyan, who has the potential to be one of the most feared power hitters in the game.

| 1999 Club | AVG | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|-----------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Buffalo | .208 | 395 | 51 | 82 | 11 | 1 | 30 | 67 | 52 | 187 | 8 |
| Cleveland | .211 | 38 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 0 |

4

Tim Drew

Position: Pitcher
Age: 21 **B/T:** R/R
Ht. 6'1" **Wt.** 195
Drafted: HS - Hahira, GA, 1997 (1st round)
Signed by: Mark Germann

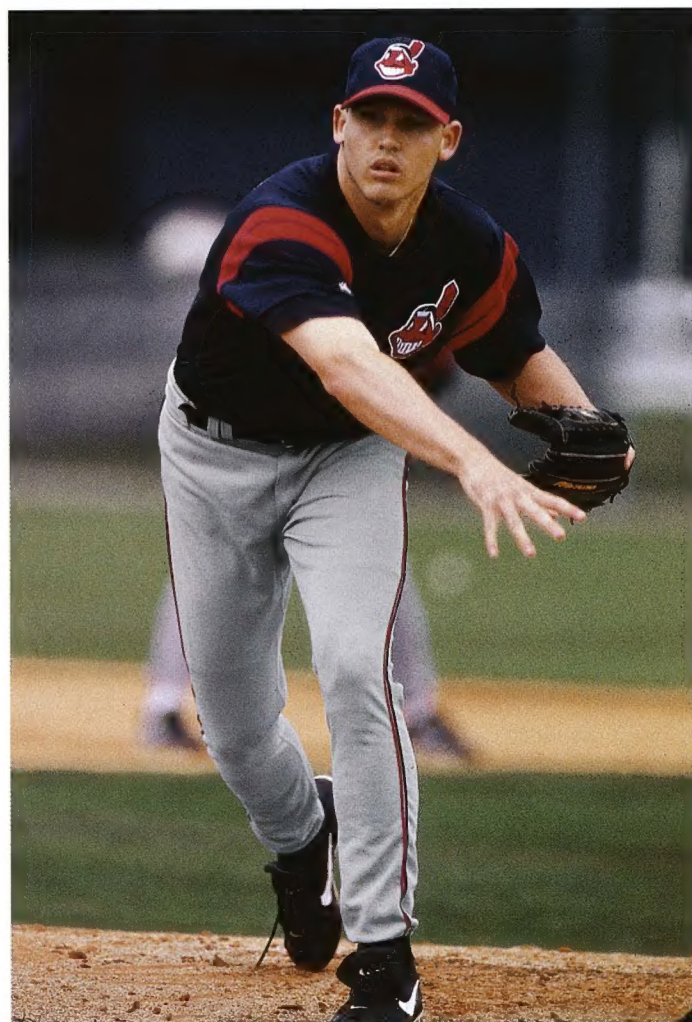
Background: With his more renowned, older brother J.D., the Drews became the first brothers picked in the same first round in draft history. Tim had the better year in 1999, leading the Carolina League in wins and innings pitched. His breakthrough season came not a moment too soon, following a head-scratching first two years in which he was 7-12.

Strengths: Drew has great passion and aptitude for the game, mental toughness and a wonderful work ethic. Drew's fastball has good life. He uses a plus slider as his out pitch and has a good feel for the craft, using multiple arm angles to deceive hitters.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Branyan (above) offers the Tribe yet another powerful bat. Drew (below) has an exemplary work ethic, utilizes multiple arm angles in his deliveries, and throws a plus slider as his out pitch.



"THE THING CHARLIE IS REALLY GOOD AT IS THAT HE KNOWS WHAT MAKES EACH PLAYER TICK."

Jim Thome

Indians new manager, "is when I get to know a player, I have a feel for what makes his game strong."

Thome saw that in the Minor Leagues, and he still sees it today.

"The thing Charlie is really good at," says Thome, "is that he knows what makes each player tick. He knows me, he knows Sandy (Alomar), he knows Manny (Ramirez). He knows instinctively when we are having good days or bad days. He knows when he can talk to us. Knows when to leave us alone. He's really good at reading his players."

That ability to read players is something that Hart noticed in Manuel years ago.

"Charlie only has to be around a player for three or four days, and he knows what buttons to push," says Hart. "And the players appreciate that."

How intuitive is Manuel?

During his six years as the Indians hitting coach, it was not unusual for Tribe PITCHERS to come to him for advice.

"There were times when we would go to Charlie and ask him how to pitch to certain hitters," says Karsay. "He would watch the hitters on the other teams so closely that he could tell us what he thought was the best way to pitch to them."

There's a lot of finesse and nuance to managing, just as there is also a lot of shouting and pointing. The shouting and pointing are what everyone sees. The finesse and nuance are between player and manager.

But the quiet stuff is just as important as the noisy stuff.

Manuel has seen all the stuff. Good stuff, bad stuff, useful stuff, phony stuff. When you've been in professional baseball nearly 40 years, you know your way around the block.

"When you've put in as many hours and days and years in this game as Charlie has," says Uhlaender, "in Japan, in the Minors, and in the Majors, you see about everything possible in this game."

And he's taken a little bit out of each of his experiences, and learned from it. And what Manuel hasn't learned, he hasn't had to learn. It's just been there. Instinctively.

Manuel has been preparing his whole life for the opportunity that awaits him this year as manager of the Cleveland Indians. Patiently, quietly, and loyally, he has paid his dues in the game, playing and coaching at every level. Managing in the Minor Leagues. And playing in Japan. It is, in fact, Manuel's extensive and



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

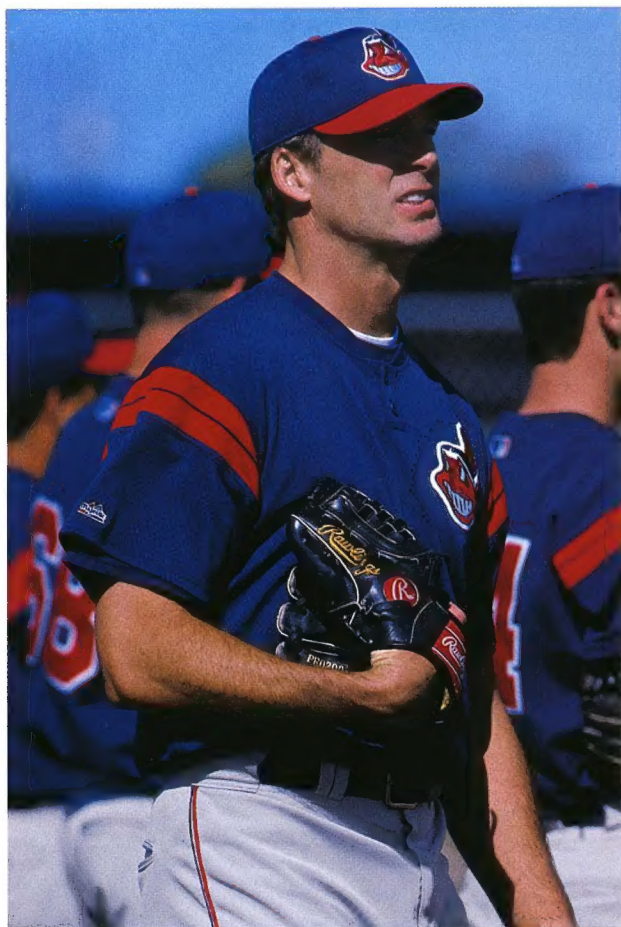
Charlie Manuel has admirers among hitters and pitchers alike. Tribe hurlers Charles Nagy (above) and Chuck Finley (left) appreciate their new manager's honest, open style — and his ability to "size-up" opposing batters.

unique resume that makes him so uniquely qualified to manage a Major League team that it makes you wonder why he hasn't gotten the opportunity sooner.

Start with the fact that he is a great communicator, who speaks from a perspective that very few, if any, managers have ever had. And that would be this: during his playing career, Manuel was both a star and an anonymous bench player. From 1969 to 1975 he was a bench player in the Major Leagues. An extra outfielder, who rarely played, and didn't hit much when he did — career average in the big leagues: .198.

But from 1976 through 1981, Manuel played in Japan, where he was one of the biggest, if not THE biggest star in Japanese baseball at that time. During those years, he was the country's most prolific and famous home run hitter, belting in consecutive seasons: 42, 39, 37, and 48 home runs. Manuel was as big a star in Japan as he was an unknown Major Leaguer in the States.

Star and journeyman. Manuel has been there. Not many players can say that. And



of respect. They all had a strong impact on their players because they understood the dynamics of relationships in this game. I saw the same qualities in Charlie."

Many of those qualities were forged in the Minor Leagues. Manuel has nine years experience as a Minor League manager.

"I've heard people say that in the Minors the manager has the hammer, because he decides who plays and who doesn't," says Manuel. "Well I think the same is true in the Major Leagues. Just because the players are making more money, the manager is still the one in charge of who is going to play. I see no difference between managing in the Minors and the Majors."

That consistency springs from a trait Manuel has spent a lifetime developing: honesty. "I try to be straightforward and honest with all my players," he says. "When they do well I praise them. I think it's really important that they see you are pulling for them, whether you are the number one

Jim Thome (above) has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with Manuel, having played for him in the Minor Leagues. Thome says Manuel has the ability to inspire a sense of confidence and "belonging" in his players. The prolific slugger also appreciates his manager's ability to understand his players—know when they are down, when to encourage, and when to give them space.

**"CHARLIE TREATS
EVERYONE THE SAME.
WHETHER YOU'RE
A CLUBHOUSE GUY,
A BENCH PLAYER,
OR A STAR . . ."**

Jim Thome



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

guy on the team or the number 25 guy on the team."

Manuel's experience as a bench player in Minnesota gives him a unique insight into the mindset of the non-star player as well. "Basically you never have problems with star players, because they're playing every day," he says. "The tough situation is with the guys on the bench. The guy who doesn't play every day. I think a manager has to make sure he gets those guys into games without letting them sit too long. Otherwise they feel neglected. Believe me, I know. I went through that. It's very important for a manager to use his bench, just to show those players that you care about them just as much as you care about the regulars."

Another Manuel strength is his ability to evaluate the talent of players, both on the Indians and with other teams. During his years as Tribe hitting coach, Manuel was one of Hart's most valued judges of talent.

"Charlie is very solid in that area," says Hart. "I can think of so many incidences where he will say 'I like this guy,' and the guy will turn out to be a player. Or on the other hand you might ask him about a guy and he'll say, 'I'm not ready to commit on him yet.' The thing is, he's never on the fence. He always has an opinion, and he has a real knowledge about what it takes to play this game."

And when dealing with players, Manuel can use the hammer or the velvet glove.

"I remember the first time I talked to Charlie," says Thome. "It was at Spring Training in 1989. I got a hit over the third baseman's head, down into the left field corner. I felt like I was king of the world, like I really had accomplished something with that hit. But when I got back to the

continued, see Charlie Manuel, page 70



Shortly after Indians stockholders approved the sale of the team by Richard E. Jacobs to Lawrence J. Dolan, Mr. Dolan sat down in the Terrace Club at Jacobs Field with Bill Needle of FOX Sports Net to discuss issues relevant to the club in the early months of the Dolan ownership.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Q NEEDLE: Being an optimist, and one assumes you are since you just bought a baseball team, do you expect this to be fun, to be enjoyable, given all the egos and other variables that reveal themselves as one owns a professional sports team?

A DOLAN: Well, I have my own ego, too, and I have to acknowledge that. Yes, I do expect owning the Indians to be fun and I intend to see to it that it is fun. Baseball, after all, is a game and if we can't have fun, we shouldn't be in it.

NEEDLE: Do you have any expectations for what you'd like to see happen during your tenure – apart from what happens on the field?

DOLAN: Yes, I certainly do. Part of our motivation in buying the team is to have an impact on the city. Also to use it as an engine for additional business opportunities. When I say impact on the city, I think the ballclub has a wonderful opportunity to make a contribution – not that it hasn't – but I think there's a lot more we can do.

NEEDLE: Your first few weeks of ownership – what has it been like?

DOLAN: Well, it's been very exciting. Everything is new. I find that people have to open doors for me, because I don't know where the doors go. But I intend to

get past all that and learn my way around. I expect to spend a lot of time here – not managing – but doing the things I mentioned, having to do with the city and other opportunities.

NEEDLE: You talk about people opening doors for you, literally. There's also a figurative "opening of doors" that comes from your position. Are you comfortable with that?

DOLAN: The answer is yes and no. I'm not comfortable about why the doors are being opened. But I'm glad they are. It's amazing to me, to use the word 'celebrity,' the 'celebrity' status one gets from simply buying a ballclub. It surprises me. That's a mixed blessing.

NEEDLE: By dint of buying the Indians, you have become a public figure. However, the degree to which you choose to accept celebrity is your choice. Given a continuum with 'public figure' at one end, and 'celebrity' at the other, where along that line do you fit as to whether you prefer public figure or celebrity?

DOLAN: I guess I don't really know the difference between those two – public figure and celebrity. But I do feel – particularly in a city like Cleveland – the owner of the ballclub has a responsibility to be known.

I cannot – should not – be a stranger to the fans. So I'm going to do things that might seem to be 'celebrity' activities. But, really, it's because I feel I need to interact with the fans – not be a celebrity.

NEEDLE: Will there always be a Larry Dolan who is his own person, his family's person, a private person? Or will this 'celebrity' be the same guy who you are?

DOLAN: I don't know. I hope the answer to that will be 'yes.' I hope that's how it'll work out.

NEEDLE: Has it dawned on you yet, going back to your days of listening to Jack Graney and keeping score of games on the radio when you were a kid, that you actually own the team? Has it dawned on you?

DOLAN: I'm having a problem with it. Just this morning, my son and I were walking in and he stopped at the gate, out past the 'home run' porch. I asked him "Why are we stopping here?" He said, "I just thought you'd like to take a look at your Ballpark." Well, that hadn't dawned on me. That's my Ballpark.

NEEDLE: Some owners might regard themselves simply as stewards of a civic treasure while others might feel, "That's my team and I'll do with it what I will. It doesn't belong to the city and it doesn't

belong to the fans." Along another continuum, where do you fit – between steward and outright owner?

DOLAN: I hope a great deal closer to the former. We're in the entertainment business. Our consumers are the fans, whether they are sitting here at the Ballpark, watching at home on TV, listening on the radio, or reading about us in the newspapers. Those are the people to whom I'm accountable. Because those are the people who are going to make the ballclub successful – and, perhaps, myself.

NEEDLE: It has made a lot of us fans comfortable to know there was a time you were a great Indians fan, keeping score of games on the radio. But given that, there's also a feeling that you might be more willing to react as a fan would now that you're the owner. Let the budget be damned. Let responsibility go to the wind. We need 'Player A' – we'll GET 'Player A.' Is that a fair portrayal?

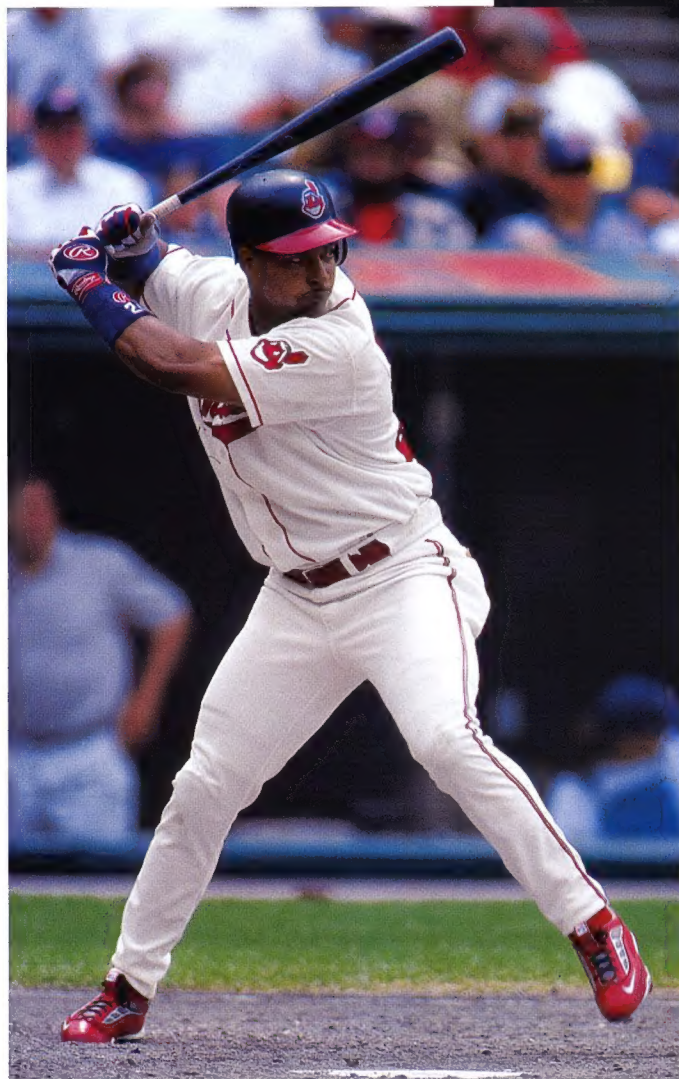


Photo: Gregory Drezdson



John Carpino

DOLAN: Those who perceive me like that are going to be disappointed. You mentioned 'stewardship.' I mentioned 'entertainment business.' The business has to survive. I don't do the fans a favor by being economically irresponsible. I said in a press conference, "I don't want to win one World Series. If you spend your money 'foolishly,' my word, you may buy yourself a World Series, but you don't have a team. We want to put a team on the field that will compete every year, that has reasonable expectations of being in the World Series. That's what I'm after."

NEEDLE: Do you anticipate any difficulty separating the devoted fan, Larry Dolan, from the owner/businessman, Larry Dolan?

DOLAN: Yes, I think I might have some difficulty there. The temptation is, 'If we get this guy, we can do it all. This guy costs 'x.' But we don't have 'x.' And we can't spend 'x.' So I hope I will be able to make the right judgments at the right times in those regards. It can't be an absolute. You almost have to take it on a player-by-player situation.

NEEDLE: We move to a specific player – Manny Ramirez. Do you sense this situation with Manny Ramirez may define the early part of your tenure? That whether you sign him, or you don't sign him, you'll be perceived through that single player personnel decision?

Pictured left: Dolan says "Manny Ramirez" questions top the list of those inquiries he receives from acquaintances. Above: One of Dolan's goals is "to put a team on the field that will compete every year . . ."

**"I CAN'T WORRY
ABOUT HOW I'M
GOING TO BE
PERCEIVED. I'VE
GOT TO DO WHAT
I THINK IS CORRECT."**

Larry Dolan

DOLAN: I don't know the answer to that. I have to acknowledge that when people talk with me as the owner of the Indians, after the customary polite questions, the next question I get is, "Are you going to sign Manny?" And I say, "I don't know whether we're going to sign Manny, or not. There are so many factors involved. Economics is clearly one of them."

NEEDLE: Well - what I'm really trying to get at is - are you concerned that you'll be perceived one way or another, whether you sign him or whether you don't?

DOLAN: I can't worry about how I'm going to be perceived. I've got to do what I think is correct. The problem I'm having now is figuring out what that is.

NEEDLE: Do you feel the need to put the Dolan 'stamp' on your tenure as owner?

DOLAN: I wouldn't use that language. But, I think the 'fan-friendly' application of the owner is something I want to do. If that's a 'stamp,' so be it.

NEEDLE: There's a learning curve locally when you bought the team - learning how to run the franchise. There's also the bigger picture - running the franchise in context with all the other teams. Is there a double task facing you?

DOLAN: There is. I spoke of what we need to do here. But things need to be done with baseball, the game itself. We purchased this franchise on the premise that we're going to own it 50 years from now. Stability will be necessary to make that possible. Baseball needs to do some things differently, or there may not be a game 50 years from now, as we know it today. Baseball understands that and is

working toward those concerns. I intend to be involved and, I hope, be helpful.

NEEDLE: What things does baseball need to do?

DOLAN: I think it's important that the fans in every city - at this time of the year - have a reasonable expectation that their team may be in the playoffs. That'll keep baseball healthy. That's not the case today. That's a problem that's being addressed.

NEEDLE: And what about salaries? Will Ken Griffey's willingness to sign for less than his market value with the Reds play a role in controlling salaries - something just about everybody thinks is necessary?

DOLAN: That particular set of circumstances, from a distance, seems to be somewhat unique. I hope, however, it might be the first step toward recognizing the salaries being paid to players, well, that's certainly a legitimate concern.

NEEDLE: Let's go back for a second. The Thanksgiving Day Charity Football

continued, see Larry Dolan, page 56



Photo: Gregory Drezdron



their positions as bullpen coach and working coach, respectively. Jones, a longtime hitting instructor for the Atlanta Braves, would replace Manuel in that capacity after the incredible success enjoyed by Indians hitters in 1999 under Manuel's tutelage.

Then, in early November, Manuel completed his staff by adding Jim Riggleman, who has managed at the Major League level for the past seven years; Grady Little, legendary Minor League manager and the Red Sox bench coach the last three years; Dick Pole, who brings 12 years of experience as a Major League pitching coach; and Ted Uhlaender, former Tribe outfielder who has served Major League organizations in no less than five different capacities.

None of the four additions has been closer to Manuel, in a coaching capacity, than across the field in an opposing dugout. Only Uhlaender had ever been Manuel's teammate, and that was for only one season. But all had garnered Manuel's respect and admiration, somewhere down the baseball trail, as hardworking, knowledgeable men eager to accept the responsibility and the challenge of bringing Cleveland a world title.

Jim Riggleman, 47, is so highly regarded by Indians brass that, before Manuel's appointment was announced, he himself was one of a handful of candidates to become the Tribe manager. His

Riggleman (top left) believes in coaching by example. He keeps himself well-conditioned in order to encourage his players to do the same. Pole (below left) brings 12 years of experience as a Major League pitching coach to Cleveland. He is admired by many of his students who give him much credit for their successes. Two of those students are longtime Atlanta ace Greg Maddux and the Indians Dave Burba (below right).



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

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Photo: Gregory Drezdron

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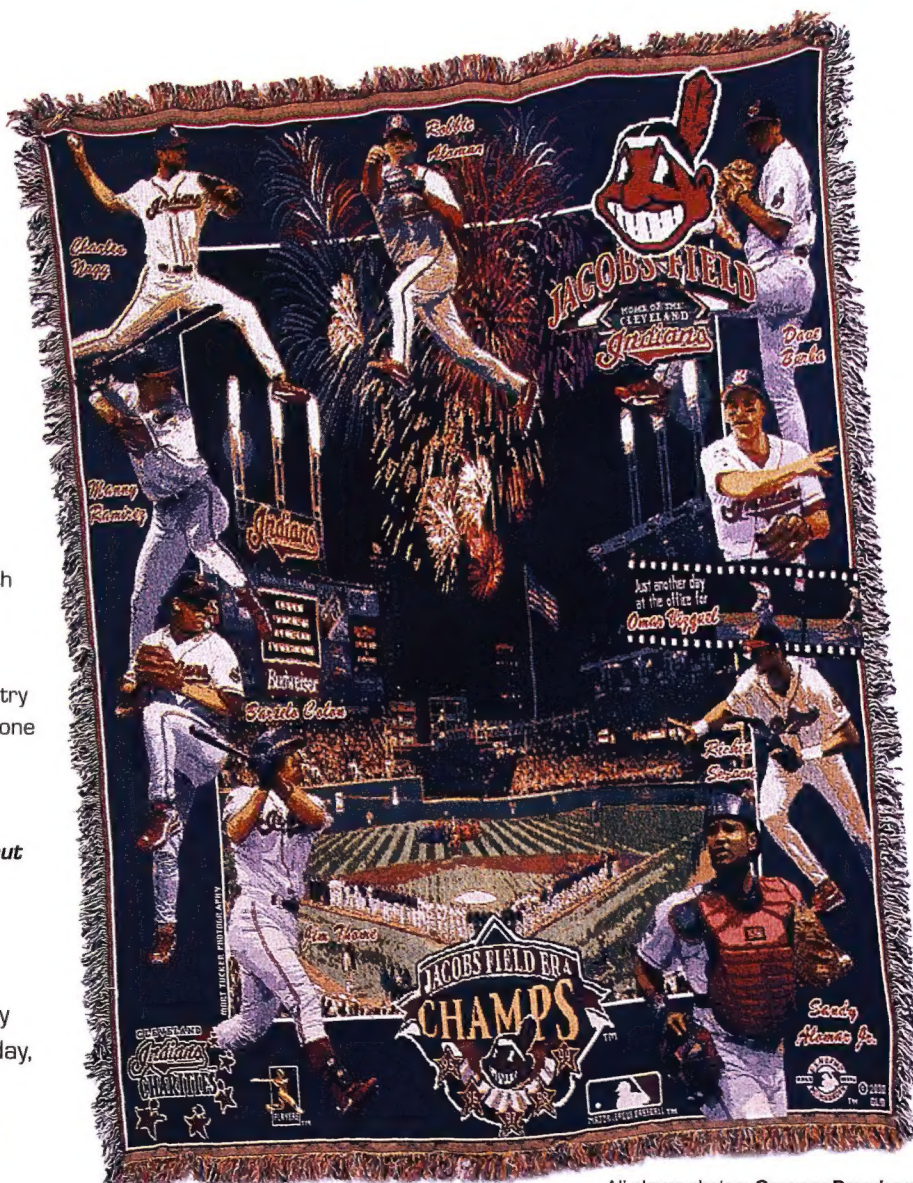
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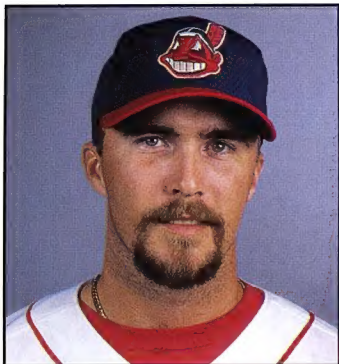
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All player photos: Gregory Drezdson



THE CLEVELAND INDIANS

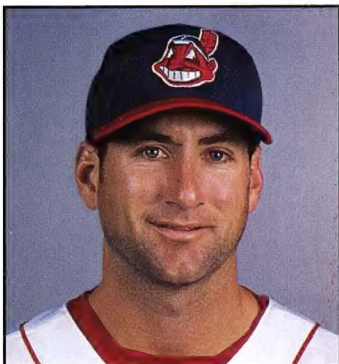


Tom MARTIN 36

Age: 29, born May 21, 1970
in Charleston, SC

Position: Pitcher

B/T: L/L Ht: 6'1" Wt: 200



Charles NAGY 41

Age: 32, born May 5, 1967
in Fairfield, CT

Position: Pitcher

B/T: L/R Ht: 6'3" Wt: 200



Alex RAMIREZ 61

Age: 25, born October 3, 1974
in Caracas, Venezuela

Position: Outfielder

B/T: R/R Ht: 5'11" Wt: 176



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

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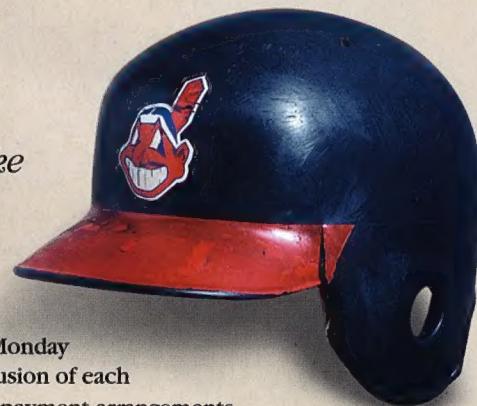
*Cleveland Indians Charities will make
three autographed items available per
week for online auction via the Tribe's
website, www.indians.com*

Weekly auctions begin Monday, April 3, and will last from 3PM Monday to 3PM the following Monday. The highest bidders at the conclusion of each weekly auction will be contacted via e-mail by the Indians for payment arrangements. Payments can be made by MasterCard, the preferred credit card of the Cleveland Indians, or by VISA, Discover, American Express or by check made payable to Cleveland Indians Charities. The items will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

The highest bidders will have 48 hours to respond to the e-mail notification of their bid selection before the next highest bidder will be awarded the item. Minimum bids for each item will range from \$50 - \$75. All items will include a letter of authenticity.

All proceeds benefit Cleveland Indians Charities which supports youth education and recreation programs in the Greater Cleveland area.

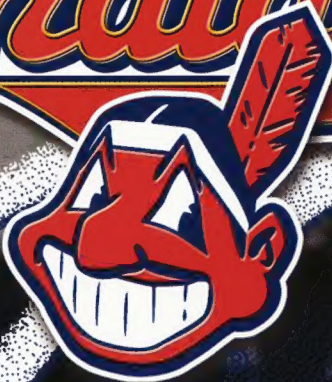
Auction items will vary each week, but may include banners, autographed jerseys, bats, helmets, and photographs.





CLEVELAND

Indians



BASEBALL
2000

Photos: Gregory Drezdson